

Bethlehem Assoc.

1879

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE

Sixty-Third Annual Session

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Georgiana Baptist Church,

GEORGIANA, ALA.

September 27th, 28th and 29th, 1879.



SELMA :

ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1879.

MINUTES.

BETHLEHAM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—Persuant to adjournment of the last session the Association met with the Georgiana Church at 10 o'clock, Sept. 27th, 1879, and after reading the 103d Psalm, and prayer by Eld. B. F. Riley, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. A. J. Robinson.

Eld. A. Jay, Eld. L. W. Duke, and Bro. J. W. Locke were appointed to read the letters, and the Clerk enrolled the names of the delegates, as follows :

FIRST DISTRICT.

Claiborne—John Thames, J. M. Boykin and J. K. Agee.
Little River—J. M. Boyles* and D. O. Blake.*
Monroeville—Thos. J. Emmons and John W. DeLoach.
Philadelphia—Eld. W. A. Locke, Eld. G. W. Curry, J. Holly, Jas. Sawyer and G. W. Davison.
Pleasant Hill—E. J. Watts and Andrew J. Stacy.
Pleasant Ridge—W. Beggs, John Downs and Levi Goldsby.
Salem—C. M. Carter and L. A. Hendrix.
Zion—Eld. L. W. Duke, Eld. J. M. Williams* and William Kirkland.*

SECOND DISTRICT.

Arkadelphia—A. H. Stokes, S. L. Stokes and J. T. Heydon.
Bellville—Eld. E. Clines,* C. D. Snead, J. M. Noredi and Jas. Straughn.
Bethany—Solomon Brantly and David Lee.
Catawba Spring—A. N. Johnson.
Olive Branch—John M. Yates and Jas. M. Butlar.
Point Pleasant—T. P. Adams and Moses Burch.
Pensacola—Eld. W. Edwards and W. S. Brown.
Pilgrims' Rest—E. P. Loveless, A. F. Johnson and C. F. Rankin.
Ramah—Richard Tatum, N. Harper and J. B. Evans.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Antioch—J. W. Long and J. H. Stanford
Brooklyn—A. J. Robinson and Martin Findley.
Beulah—Eld. A. Jay and Noah Robson.*
Bethel—J. Riley and J. A. Mercer.

[*] Absent.

Brushy Creek—H. H. Shell, M. F. Tails and Geo. Carnathan.
 Evergreen—G. R. Farnham, Jas. T. Fincher and Y. M. Rabb.
 Georgiana—Eld. J. E. Bell, U. C. Vinson, Jas. M. Sims and
 E. C. Milner.

Midway—John E. Parett* and John Hardy.

Mount Carmel—J. W. Darby and J. J. Howell.

New Hope—Mark A. Lane, M. V. Jones and O. R. Jones.

New Prospect—John Lee, J. R. E. Sellers and G. R. Stamps.

Old Town—Eld. I. Spence, Daniel Spence and Elisha Hart.

Sepulga—W. H. Smith* and J. P. Parnell.

Union—M. A. Ray and P. G. Belcher.

Eld. B. F. Riley and Bro. John W. Locke were requested to act as tellers for the election of officers for the Association, which was reported by them as follows: For Moderator, A. J. Robinson; for Clerk, Y. M. Rabb; for Treasurer, G. R. Farnham.

The Moderator announced the Committee on Religious Exercises, as follows: E. P. Loveless, G. W. Davison and the pastor and deacons of Georgiana Church.

Petitionary letters from newly constituted Churches called for and responded to as follows: Letter from Long Branch, Brethren David J. Forshee and A. D. Caton.

Poplar Spring—D. Wise.

Enon—Jordan Crawford and J. Castillow.

Brownsville—W. R. Watson and J. W. Brown.

All of which were received and the right-hand of fellowship extended to the delegates, by the Moderator, in behalf of the Association.

On calling for correspondence from other bodies, the following brethren were announced as being present and were invited to seats with us:

From Zion Association—W. G. Beck, W. H. Joiner, J. H. Johnson, J. T. Watson, W. H. Cheatham and William Bush.

Alabama Association—Elds. B. H. Crumpton, G. W. McQueen, J. M. Fortune, I. L. Taylor, and Brethren J. M. Thigpen, C. E. Bruner and F. A. Flowers.

Pine Barren Association—J. R. Hawthorn, Wm. M. Rabb, H. E. Davison, B. F. Ansley, and Elds. A. T. Sims and J. F. Bruner.

Tuskegee Association—Eld. B. F. Riley.

State Mission Board—Elds. B. H. Crumpton, B. F. Riley and Bro. G. R. Farnham.

The Committee on Preaching reported that Eld. G. W. McQueen would preach in the Methodist Church at 2½ o'clock.

The Association then took recess until 2½ o'clock p. m.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator announced the Committees to report during the session, as follows:

On Finance—John DeLoach, G. W. Davison, E. C. Milner and C. F. Rankin.

On Periodicals and Publications—Eld. A. Jay, Eld. W. Ed-

wards, C. D. Snead, John Hardy, J. T. Fincher and J. K. Agee.

On Correspondence—J. W. Darby, David Lee, J. M. Boykin, H. H. Shell and Daniel Spence.

On Queries and Requests—W. A. Locke, E. P. Loveless, W. K. Watson, A. H. Stokes and John M. Yates.

On State of Religion—Eld. I. Spence, W. S. Brown, James Straughn, John DeLoach and J. H. Higdon.

On motion of J. E. Bell, a committee consisting of five, with G. R. Farnham as Chairman, be appointed to report at this session of the body on the subject of providing a fund for the aged and infirm ministers, their widows and orphans of our denomination, which was adopted, and G. R. Farnham, E. P. Loveless, E. C. Milner, J. W. Darby and T. J. Emmons, constituted said Committee.

Bro. G. R. Farnham, Chairman of Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, made his report, and after the subject was ably discussed by B. H. Crumpton, B. F. Riley, and others, on motion the report was recommitted with instructions and afterwards received and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions note with sincere regret the marked indifference of the Churches toward this cause. An active missionary spirit is the true genius of Christianity, and should be assuredly cultivated and kindly encouraged by all of God's people. We earnestly urge upon our brethren a greater spirit of liberality in this important work, and as a medium of general missionary intelligence, recommend to the members of our Churches to subscribe for the *Foreign Missionary Journal*, published by Rev. H. A. Tupper, Richmond, Va., at fifty cents per year.
G. R. FARNHAM, Chm'n.

The Committee on Religious exercises made the following report: The Annual Sermon by J. M. Fortune at 7½ p. m., at the Baptist Church; 7½ p. M., Methodist Church, Wm. Edwards; Sabbath 9 o'clock Sunday-school Convention; Sabbath 11 o'clock Baptist Church, B. H. Crumpton; Sabbath 11 o'clock Methodist Church, B. F. Riley; Sabbath 2½ o'clock Methodist Church, L. W. Duke; Sabbath 2½ o'clock Baptist Church, G. W. Curry; Sabbath 7½ o'clock Baptist Church, Eld. B. F. Riley; Sabbath 7½ o'clock Methodist Church, Eld. W. A. Locke; Sabbath 11 o'clock colored church, Eld. A. Jay; Sabbath 7½ o'clock colored church, I. Spence.

The Association then, after prayer by B. H. Crumpton, adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH.

The brethren preached in the order of their appointments to large and appreciative audiences. At the conclusion of the 11 o'clock sermon the usual collection for Associational purposes was taken, amounting to \$26.60, also the colored Baptists contributed for State Missions \$4.60.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 29TH.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. A. Jay. The Moderator announced the report of Committees in order.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that having retrospected the Sunday-school work in the bounds of the Association for the last few years, we find that it has been an enterprise especially fostered by this body for only about ten or twelve years, by appointing Committees to look after and organize schools. At that time there were but few schools reported. But thanks be to God, by fostering care there are but few Churches in our bounds that do not feel its importance, and most of them have schools. In the country Churches it is with difficulty that the schools can be kept up--some meeting only once, and others, twice a month. To make a suitable selection of question books or lesson papers seems to create some difficulty. We would urge upon your body the necessity of taking steps to meet this defect, and also recommend that a Committee be appointed to continue the work.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. W. LOCKE, Chm'n.

The report was received and adopted, and Eld. A. Jay offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee of one from each District be raised by the Association to arrange for District Sunday-school Conventions, to be held in the respective Districts and report to this session.

Which was adopted, and A. Jay, T. J. Emmons and E. P. Loveless appointed said Committee, who made the following report:

Your Select Committee, raised under the report of the Sunday-school Committee, to arrange time and place for holding Sunday-school Conventions in the different Districts of the Association during the ensuing year, beg leave to recommend that the first meeting be held at Monroeville, in the first District, commencing on Friday before the 2d Sunday in November. The second meeting to be held at Bellville, in the second District, time to be appointed at first meeting at Monroeville. The third meeting to be held at Evergreen, in the third District, time to be appointed at the second meeting at Bellville. Respectfully submitted,

AND. JAY, Chm'n.

All of which was adopted.

The Finance report was adopted, as follows :

FINANCE REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to report that they have received the following amounts and for the objects hereinafter designated :

CHURCHES.	Minute Fund.	Board.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Cor. Sec. S. Board.	CHURCHES.	Minute Fund.	Board.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Cor. Sec. S. Board.
Claiborne.....	3 00	20 00					New Prospect....	1 10	5 05				
Pleasant Hill....	1 75	5 00					Old Town.....	85	5 00				
Mont'y Hill.....	2 00						Union.....	1 00	5 00				
Salem.....	2 00	5 35					Bethel.....	75	5 00				
Monroeville.....	3 50	20 00					Brooklyn.....	1 50					
Zion.....	2 25	10 80					Brush Creek....	1 50	9 25				
Philadelphia.....	1 90	12 00		50			Sepulga.....	1 05					
Pleasant Ridge....	1 70	3 10					Long Branch....	1 50					
Bethany.....	1 40	6 40					Bethel.....	1 25	2 50				
Bellville.....	3 25	1 50				5 00	Midway.....	75	3 50				
Arkadelphia.....	3 00	5 00					Georgiana.....	2 00	25 00	7 70		17 00	
Catawba Spring..	1 00						Antioch.....	12 00				3 50	
Pilgrims' Rest....	2 50	21 50					Mt. Carmel.....	1 95	4 50				
Pensacola.....	2 00	10 00					Brownsville....	1 15					
Olive Branch.....	60	6 80					Enon.....	50					
Point Pleasant...	2 10						Poplar Spring..	1 00					
Ramah.....	1 00						Jacob Smith....		5 00				
Evergreen.....	3 00	23 55	10 00	100 00			Jas. Straughn...		5 00				
New Hope.....	1 50	3 60					A. J. Robinson...		5 00				

Total amount Minute Fund.....	\$ 59 30
“ “ State Board.....	238 30
“ “ Foreign Missions.....	18 30
“ “ Ministerial Education.....	120 50
“ “ Bro. T. M. Baily.....	5 00
“ “ Sabbath Collection.....	26 60
“ “ from colored Church for State Missions.....	4 60

Total cash.....\$472 60

JOHN DELOACH, Chm'n.

On motion of Eld. A. Jay the Sabbath collection was ordered to be divided as follows : One-half to State Board and other half divided equally between the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

The Committee on Publications and Periodicals made the following report, which was adopted :

Your Committee, to whom the duty has been assigned of reporting on “Periodicals and publications,” would submit, that they do not regard it to be the object of such report to take a wide range into the great mass of religious literature, and select therefrom, works of the greatest merit or those best adapted to the wants of the denomination. But rather that we make such reference to the *Alabama Baptist*, our State paper, as the circumstances, in our opinion, will justify. The origin and object as well as progress, of the *Alabama Baptist* are not unknown to this Association.

At the time of its inauguration it appeared to many leading brethren as a denominational necessity. And although the enterprise did not meet with the hearty favor at first of the great Baptist brotherhood of the State, yet it has steadily grown and increased in influence and usefulness, until now it is a tower of strength. Having accomplished, under God, wonders in unifying the Baptists of the State, and enabling them to interchange views on the various matters of the Master's kingdom. Its history, had we space and proper statistics to do it, need not be reproduced

here; suffice it that it has been adopted generally as the Baptist organ of Alabama. While it has a good circulation, under the circumstances and times, yet its advantages and benefits give it claim upon us for a much larger list of subscribers than it has. And while it is now fully up to the wants of the denomination, in the main, yet we trust and be liev that an improvement commensurate with an increased subscription list would be witnessed in both the matter and mechanical work of the paper, and the pens of the ablest writers proportionably commanded, all of which would tend to increase the subscription list. Thus, a good chance is offered of getting a better paper at a reduced subscription price. Hence, we would urge upon the brethren of the Association, generally, to become subscribers for the *Alabama Baptist*, and let no trivial excuse prevent. We believe the money thus invested will yield a paying interest in the shape of a growth in religious knowledge, and that we hazard nothing in saying that when once introduced into families, it will become a fixture, a family necessity, as well as a family treasure. We endorse what we frequently have heard said of it, that one single copy amply repays the subscription price. Then let every delegate become a constituted agent to present the claims and secure subscribers for the *Alabama Baptist*, and head the list with his own name, if, indeed, he be not a subscriber already, and a great blessing must follow by the more general dissemination of religious knowledge and the consequent familiarity with the denominational tenets.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDREW JAY, Chm'n

The Committee on State Missions made their report, which elicited discussion on the various workings of the Board, participated in by Eld. A. Jay, B. H. Crumpton, W. G. Curry and L. W. Duke. Pending the discussion adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Discussion of the report on State Missions was continued by G. R. Farnham, B. F. Riley, and others. On motion of Y. M. Rabb, the regular order of business was suspended, and B. H. Crumpton and B. F. Riley requested to take pledges for the support of the State Mission Work for the ensuing year, with the following result: Georgiana Church, \$25.00; Monroeville, \$15.00; Philadelphia, \$15.00; Claiborne, \$20.00; Bethany, \$10.00; Pensacola, \$10.00; New Prospect, \$5.00; Old Town (by Bro. Jay), \$5.00; Beulah, \$5.00; Pilgrims' Rest, \$10.00; Evergreen, cash, \$23.55; Brownsville (by Bro. Jay), \$5.00; Enon, \$3.00; Bro. Jas. Straughn, \$5.00; P. G. Belcher, \$5.00; J. A. Mercer, \$2; W. C. Bennett, \$5.00; C. M. Carter \$5.00; A. J. Stacy, \$2.50; Daniel Spence, \$2.00; M. A. Ray, \$1.00; cash, \$1.00. Total, \$186.05.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE MISSIONS.

The work of evangelization, undertaken by the State Board nearly two years ago, has been attended with the most encouraging results. Through the energetic exertions and sacrifices of the several evangelists, the interests of the Baptist cause have been more advanced than at any previous period. As opportunities have presented themselves for the extension of the work they have been readily seized upon, and under the efficient evangelists of the State Board, the Churches throughout the different portions of the State have been greatly benefited. And not only so, but new interests have sprung up under the indefatigable labors of those brethren, and give promise of great usefulness in the future. But grand as have been the achievements of these men, under the providence of God, a great work still lies before the Baptists of Alabama to be performed, difficulties are to be

encountered, vast and arduous labors are to be performed, and great sacrifices are to be made. Are the Baptists of the State equal to the work which Providence has opened so broadly and invitingly before them? In view of the success which has attended the labors of our evangelists the great absorbing question which presents itself for the consideration of this body is, Shall the work be abandoned, or shall we follow up the advantages already gained? Shall we desert the fields where the banners of the Redeemer have been planted through the labors of our missionaries? or shall we leave this work to other hands to reap where they have not sown? We think we hear the response coming from every heart that has been tendered by the love of Jesus—no! but by the grace of God we will push forward this enterprise until the banners of our Redeemer shall wave in triumph over every nook and corner of our State.

It is generally understood that Bro. Curry expects to abandon the work. This is to be regretted, but we should not become discouraged, for we are happy to say it has not been for the want of a support.

Your Committee recommend that this Association co-operate with the State Board and the other Associations forming this District, in securing the services of a competent man who will suit the work; and your Committee do heartily recommend Bro. A. T. Sims. We further recommend that this Association appoint a Committee whose duty it shall be to collect and disburse the Finance pledges for the support of the work, thereby relieving the evangelist of a great deal of unnecessary embarrassment.

Respectfully submitted,

L. W. DUKE, Chm'n.

The Committee on Queries and Requests report, that they find requests from Claiborne, Monroeville and Zion Churches, asking our body to hold its next Annual Session with their respective Churches. After consultation with the delegates from these Churches, Zion and Monroeville have consented for us to report in favor of granting the request of Claiborne Church.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LOCKE, Chm'n.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that the indications as gathered from letters and intercourse with the brethren, are of an encouraging nature. The Churches are more generally represented, which indicates an increased interest. Also a greater number of baptisms, as well as four newly constituted Churches, adding seventy members. Another evidence of improvement is the additional Sabbath-school interest; also the increased interest in supporting the Missionary work. We therefore feel that we have reason to take courage and be hopeful, and faithfully await a continued prosperity under the blessings of God.

Respectfully submitted,

I. SPENCE, Chm'n.

TREASURER'S REPORT,

G. R. Farnham, Treasurer of the Bethlehem Association, in account with the same;

	Dr.	
To cash from Finance Committee	\$269	10
	Cr.}	
By cash to W. G. Curry	\$171	10
“ “ Minutes	59	30
“ “ Foreign Missions	17	10
“ “ Home Missions	6	60
Balance on hand	15	00—\$269 10

Balance \$000 00

On motion the Clerk receive \$15 00 for superintending the

printing and distributing the Minutes, and use the balance of the Minute fund in binding old Minutes and in printing and distributing the Minutes of this session.

J. E. Bell offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That a Standing Committee on Ministerial Education, located in some central place, be appointed, to receive and disburse funds for this purpose, also to examine and receive applicants for assistance; also take from said applicants a promissory note, on which they must not, under any circumstances, be sued.

The regular order of business was suspended for the purpose of asking pledges for Ministerial Education, with the following result : A. Jay, cash \$1 ; John M. Sims, \$5 ; E. C. Milner, \$5 ; Wm. Edwards, \$5 . W. S. Brown, \$5 ; J. E. Smith, \$1 ; W. G. Curry, cash \$5 ; cash, \$7. Total, \$34.

The Special Committee on Provisions for aged and infirm ministers, their wives and orphans, made the following report :

Your Committee think the subject of making suitable provisions for the necessities of aged and infirm ministers, their widows and orphans, should engage our prayerful consideration. It is a most worthy Christian object, one which should address itself with peculiar force to every pious heart, and elicit not only our warmest sympathies, but secure our cheerful material aid. Those who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel, and a complete consecration to the Master's cause precludes the pursuits of secular vocations. The Baptists are behind their brethren of other denominations in this regard, and it is mainly because there has never been any systematic effort in this direction. In order that the subject may be brought prominently to the attention of our people, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved 1st, It is the sense of this Association that it is the duty of the Baptists to make provisions, so far as in their power lies, for disabled ministers, and the widows and children of deceased ministers who have spent and been spent in the service of the Master.

Resolved 2d. We recommend to all Churches composing this Association that they declare the above to be one of the benevolent enterprises of the Baptist denomination to be fostered by them.

Resolved 3d, We recommend a Committee of three to be appointed for the purpose of raising and disbursing such means as may be received for this purpose, and that such Committee report the result of their labors to the next Association.

Bro. C. D. Snead offered a preamble and resolution on the subject of Churches, in tolerating their members in dealing in intoxicating liquors, which, after some discussion, was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of the moderator, A. J. Robinson, J. E. Bell and C. D. Snead. Adjourned until 7½ p. m.

7½ P. M.

The Special Committee reported as follows :

Whereas, It is currently rumored that grave irregularities exist in some of the Churches of this Association by reason of their failure to discipline their members who engage in the traffic of spirituous liquors, and

Whereas, We believe that said traffic is contrary to the spirit of Christianity, and that it destroys the influence for good of such members as engage in it, and impairs the usefulness of others. And,

Whereas, The Constitution of this Association specially provides for the withdrawal from, and denouncing of, such Churches as become disorderly in practice. Therefore be it

Resolved, That this Association will feel it to be its Christian duty to withdraw from, and disown, such Churches in our union as fail to discipline its members who engage in the traffic.

A. J. ROBINSON, }
J. E. BELL, } Com.
C. D. Snead, }

The Committee provided for in the State Missionary report was announced as consisting of G. R. Farnham, A. Jay and C. D. Snead.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

The Bethlehem Association to Corresponding Associations sendeth salutation :

Dear Brethren : It is with pleasure that we recognize in our midst correspondents from the Zion Association—W. G. Beck, W. H. Joiner, W. H. Cheatham, J. H. Johnson, J. T. Watson and W. Bush.

Alabama Association—B. H. Crumpton, G. W. McQueen, J. M. Fortune, I. L. Taylor, C. E. Bruner, J. M. Thigpen and F. A. Flowers.

Pine Barren Association—J. R. Hawthorn, Wm. M. Rabb, II. E. Davison, B. F. Ansly, A. T. Sims, and J. F. Bruner.

Tuskegee Association—B. F. Riley.

The State Board was also represented by B. H. Crumpton, B. F. Riley and G. R. Farnham, all of whom were gladly received by us.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. DARBY, Chm'n.

The Standing Committee provided for in the resolution on Ministerial Education, was announced as consisting of G. R. Farnham, A. Jay and C. D. Snead.

Correspondence was returned as follows :

State Convention—Elds. A. Jay, J. E. Bell, L. W. Duke, W. G. Curry, I. Spence, and Brethren G. R. Farnham, C. D. Snead, J. W. Locke, and Y. M. Rabb.

Pine Barren Association—Elds. J. E. Bell, I. Spence, L. W. Duke, and Bro. J. M. Sims.

Alabama Association—(The place for holding the Association was so remote that no brother could consent to go.)

Zion Association—Elds. W. G. Curry, A. Jay, I. Spence, and Brethren A. J. Robinson, E. C. Loveless, A. D. Caton, D. J. For-shee.

Elim Association—Elds. J. E. Bell, W. Edwards, and Brethren W. S. Brown, Y. M. Rabb and J. C. Loveless.

The Standing committees announced :

State Missions—J. E. Bell, I. Spence, W. G. Curry and Y. M. Rabb.

Foreign Missions—L. W. Duke, J. E. Bell, C. D. Snead and W. A. Locke.

Sabbath-schools—E. P. Loveless, T. J. Emmons, E. C. Milner and J. T. Fincher.

Bro. G. R. Farnham offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the unanimous thanks of this Association be tendered to the pastor and deacons of the Georgiana Church and to all the citizens of Georgiana and vicinity for their generous and unbounded hospitality extended to the delegates attending this body.

Bro. Jay offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be extended to M. & M. R. R. for half-rate tickets to the delegates. Which was unanimously passed.

L. W. Duke, E. P. Loveless and G. R. Farnham were selected as Committee to report some one to deliver the next Annual Address, and after consultation, reported the name of J. E. Bell.

After giving the parting hand, and prayer by Eld. A. T. Sims, the Association adjourned to meet with Claiborne Church, Monroe Co., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1880, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Y. M. RABB, Clerk,

A. J. ROBINSON, Moderator.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Appoint Committee to Read Letters.
2. Names of Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Recognize Messengers from Corresponding Boutes.
7. Invitation to Ministers of the Gospel present, not accredited to the body, to seats with us.
8. Appointment of Committees to report during the session.
9. Report of Committees appointed at the last session.
10. Appointment of Committees to report at the next session.
11. Report of Committees present session.
12. Motions and resolutions.
13. Miscellaneous business.
14. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
15. Treasurer's Report.
16. Disbursement of Funds on hand.

CONSTITUTION.

OF THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, who shall usurp no authority over the Churches in our union, or intringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the Churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from, and disown all Churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, especially with those united in this Association.

ART. III. Every Church in our union shall be entitled to delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members an additional delegate. Through them shall be transmitted to every Annual Session of this Association a letter, specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excommunicated, restored, deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel since the last session; also post office; Sabbath meetings, by whom supplied, amount paid pastor, and the amounts contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body, and the number, average and attendance at Sabbath-schools.

ART. IV. New Churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. V. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be elected by, and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep correct record of all the proceedings and discharge such other duties as may pertain to his office.

Also a Treasurer shall be elected whose duty it shall be to secure all money belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. VI. The Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session in proportion to the Minute Fund sent up by each individual Church.

ART. VII. Every query sent by a Church must be enclosed in her letter certifying that they have endeavored to solve the same but failed. Nor will it take action on any difficulties between Churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew for settlement of personal difficulties, and have not been able to settle them. In such cases the Association shall take it under consideration, but the voice of the body shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. VIII. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of Churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches by their delegates and paid over to the Committee on Finance. This Committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association Fund and pay it over to the Treasurer.

ART. IX. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. X. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULES OF ORDER FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. At every annual meeting of the Association, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices until new ones are chosen.
3. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the Minutes of the preceding day to be read.
4. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Association.
5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.
6. Questions shall be distinctly put. Those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts, or division be called for, the delegates shall divide, those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterwards those in the negative.
7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.
8. In all cases of an election the Moderator may vote; on other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question provided he calls some other member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.
9. When any member is about to speak he shall rise from his seat and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate.
10. If any member in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain, and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal the decision of the chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not proceed without leave of the Association.
11. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderator shall name the member who is first to speak.
12. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending in the case, he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak has spoken.

13. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason, excuse him.

14. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

15. Every motion must be reduced to writing if the chair or any member desire it.

16. After a motion is stated by the chair, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

17. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained, but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, and on motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed.

18. Motion to adjourn shall always be in order except the Association be engaged in voting,

19. Motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

20. On previous question there shall be no debate, all incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

21. The previous question shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question now be put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

22. A motion for reconsideration may be made by any member voting with the majority on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions except a motion to adjourn.

23. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

24. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

